

**Sertifikaat**

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**PATENT KANTOOR  
DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL  
EN NYWERHEID**

Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 MAY 2003  
PCT/IB 03 / 05426

**Certificate**

19.01.04

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

**PATENT OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY**

Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat  
This is to certify that

REC'D 26 JAN 2004

WIPO PCT

the documents annexed hereto are true copies of:

Application forms P.1 and P.3, provisional specification and drawings  
of South African Patent Application No. 2002/9606 as originally filed  
in the Republic of South Africa on 26 November 2002 in the name  
of MELTZER, MICHAEL for an invention entitled: "SUPPORTING  
SYSTEM AND CLAMP FOR SUPPORTING ARTICLES".

**PRIORITY  
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

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**PRETORIA**

in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie

in the Republic of South Africa, this

dag van

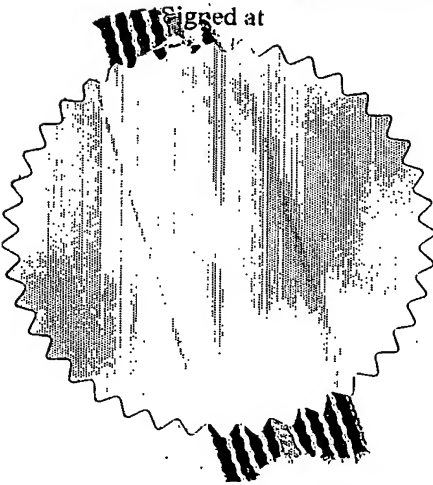
9th

day of

January 2004

Registrar of Patents

Signed at



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
PATENTS ACT, 1978  
APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT  
(Section 30(1) Regulation 22)

FORM P.1  
(to be lodged in duplicate)

THE GRANT OF A PATENT IS HEREBY REQUESTED BY THE UNDERMENTIONED APPLICANT  
ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION FILED IN DUPLICATE

PATENT APPLICATION NO. -	
21	01 2002/0600
71	FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

A & A REF: V15502

MELTZER, Michael

ADDRESS(ES) OF APPLICANT(S)
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50 Arthurs Road, SEA POINT, 8005, Republic of South Africa

54	TITLE OF INVENTION
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SUPPORTING SYSTEM AND CLAMP FOR SUPPORTING ARTICLES

ONLY THE ITEMS MARKED WITH AN "X" IN THE BLOCKS BELOW ARE APPLICABLE.

- ☐ THE APPLICATION CLAIMS PRIORITY AS SET OUT ON THE ACCOMPANYING FORM P.2  
The earliest priority claimed is Country: -- No: -- Date: --
- ☐ THE APPLICATION IS FOR A PATENT OF ADDITION TO PATENT APPLICATION NO. | 21 | 01 |
- ☐ THIS APPLICATION IS FRESH APPLICATION  
IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 AND BASED ON APPLICATION NO. | 21 | 01 |

THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY:

- ☒ A single copy of a provisional or two copies of a complete specification of 11 pages.
- ☒ Drawings of 7 sheet(s).
- ☐ Publication particulars and abstract (Form P.8 in duplicate) (for complete only).
- ☐ A copy of Figure of the drawings (if any) for the abstract (for complete only).
- ☐ An assignment of invention.
- ☐ Certified priority document(s) (State quantity):
- ☐ Translation of the priority document(s).
- ☐ An assignment of priority rights.
- ☐ A copy of Form P.2 and the specification of RSA Patent Application No. | 21 | 01 |
- ☒ A Form P.2 in duplicate.
- ☒ A declaration and power of attorney on Form P.3.
- ☐ Request for ante-dating on Form P.4.
- ☐ Request for classification on Form P.9.
- ☐ Request for delay of acceptance on Form P.4.

74	ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: Adams & Adams, Pretoria
----	--

DATED THIS 25th DAY OF November 2002.

ADAMS & ADAMS  
APPLICANTS PATENT ATTORNEYS

The duplicate will be returned to the applicant's  
address for service as proof of lodging but is  
not valid unless endorsed with official stamp.

RECEIVED
OFFICIAL DATE STAMP 2002-11-26
REGISTRAR OF PATENTS

PATENT APPLICATION NO		A&A Ref: V15502	LODGING DATE	
21	01	2002/9606	22	26 November 2002

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)	
71	MELTZER, Michael

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)	
72	MELTZER, Michael

EARLIEST PRIORITY CLAIMED	COUNTRY	NUMBER	DATE
	33 --	31 --	32 --

NOTE: The country must be indicated by its International Abbreviation - see schedule 4 of the Regulations

TITLE OF INVENTION	
54	SUPPORTING SYSTEM AND CLAMP FOR SUPPORTING ARTICLES

\* I/We **Michael MELTZER**

hereby declare that :-

1. I/we am/are the applicant(s) mentioned above;
2. ~~I/we have been authorized by the applicant(s) to make this declaration and have knowledge of the facts herein stated in the capacity of~~ of the applicant(s);
3. the inventor(s) of the abovementioned invention is/are the person(s) named above and the applicant(s) has/have acquired the right to apply by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s);
4. to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, if a patent is granted on the application, there will be no lawful ground for the revocation of the patent;
5. ~~this is a convention application and the earliest application from which priority is claimed as set out above is the first application in a convention country in respect of the invention claimed in any of the claims; and~~
6. the partners and qualified staff of the firm of **ADAMS & ADAMS**, patent attorneys, are authorised, jointly and severally, with powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the applicant(s) in this application and to be the address for service of the applicant(s) while the application is pending and after a patent has been granted on the application.

SIGNED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2002  
MELTZER, Michael

(no legalization necessary)

In the case of application in the name of a company, partnership or firm, give full names of signatory/signatories, delete paragraph 1, and enter capacity of each signatory in paragraph 2.

If the applicant is a natural person, delete paragraph 2.

If the right to apply is not by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s), delete "an assignment from the inventor(s)" and give details of acquisition of right.

For non-convention applications, delete paragraph 5.

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PATENT ATTORNEYS  
PRETORIA

FORM P.6

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Patents Act, 1978

# PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

(Section 30(1) - Regulation 27)

OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO.

21 01

LODGING DATE

22

26 November 2002

2002/9606

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

71

MELTZER, Michael

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)

72

MELTZER, Michael

TITLE OF INVENTION

54

SUPPORTING SYSTEM AND CLAMP FOR SUPPORTING ARTICLES

THIS INVENTION relates to supporting articles for storage and/or display purposes, or the like. In particular, the invention relates to a system and to a clamp for supporting at least one article.

5           According to the invention; there is provided a system for supporting at least one article, said system including:

a support structure including at least one elongate element; and

at least one clamp defining a recess flanked by two resilient arms and being removably attachable to the elongate element by receiving the elongate  
10 element in the recess in a clipping fashion, and being held in position on the elongate element, by inwardly resilience of the arms.

The word "clamp" is used to indicate a device which is attachable to an article by way of the clamping action of two or more resilient  
15 features. Such a device is sometimes also called a "clasp".

The elongate element may have a predetermined cross-sectional profile, such as a round or a square profile, and the clamp may define a part complementary profile on an inner periphery of the recess, such as a part round profile or a rectangular profile.

5

Generally radially extending guide surfaces may be defined at an end of each arm of the clamp, assisting in alignment of the elongate element with an opening defined between the ends of the two arms, before receiving the elongate element in the recess. The guide surfaces may be defined on

10 generally radially extending guide elements.

Each clamp may include on a side remote from the arms, a support formation, or may be attachable to an article which is to be supported, or to a support formation. Each clamp may include a radially outwardly

15 protruding screw-threaded element to which an article, platform, receptacle, or the like can be attached.

The system may include at least one support formation, attachable to a clamp and defining at least one support surface on which an

20 article can be supported. The support formation may be in the form of a platform, or may be in the form of a container defining a recess in which an article can be supported, such as a container defining a recess in its top or in its side.

The invention extends to a clamp for supporting an article, substantially as described hereinabove.

The invention will now be described by way of non-limiting  
5 example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows a side elevational view of a clamp in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention;

10 Figure 2 shows a rear elevational view of the clamp of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a front elevational view of the clamp of Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows a top plan view of the clamp of Figure 1;

Figure 5 shows top plan views of three clamps in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention;

15 Figure 6 shows side elevational views of the clamps of Figure 5;

Figure 7 shows a clamp in accordance with a third embodiment of the invention, attached to a square tube;

Figure 8 shows a top plan view of a fourth embodiment of a clamp in accordance with the invention;

20 Figure 9 shows a three-dimensional view of a fifth embodiment of a clamp in accordance with the invention;

Figure 10 shows a top plan view of a clamp in accordance with the second embodiment of the invention, being attached to a pole;

Figure 11 shows a side elevational view of the attachment shown in Figure 7; and

Figures 12 to 22 show side elevational views of different embodiments of a system in accordance with the invention.

5

Referring to the drawings, a clamp in accordance with the invention is generally indicated by reference numeral 10.

Referring to Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings, a clamp 10.1 in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention, includes a body 12, integrally formed with two resilient arms 14. The arms 14 define a part-cylindrical recess 16 and define a mouth 18 between two ends 20 of the arms. Two guide elements 22 extend radially outwardly from the ends 20, and each define a guide surface 24, which is covered with a low friction polymer, such as nylon. A screw-threaded element 26 protrudes radially from a rear of the body 12. The screw-threaded element 26 can serve as a support formation, or can be attached to a support formation.

The clamp 10.1 is configured to receive an elongate element with a shape complementary to the part-cylindrical recess 16, in the recess, by placing the element in the mouth 18, abutting the guide surfaces 24, and pressing the clamp towards the elongate element, so that the arms 14 are opened, the elongate element slides into the recess, and the arms close as a



result of their resilience, thereby engaging the elongate element in a clipping fashion.

Grip between inner walls of the recess 16, and an elongate element received within the recess, can be improved by coating the inner wall with rubber.

The embodiment of the clamp 10.1 shown in Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings, is moulded from a plastics material, in which a metal screw-threaded element 22 is embedded.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings, clamps 10.2, in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention, each include a resilient metal plate which has been shaped to form arms 14, a recess 16, a mouth 18, and guide elements 22, similar to the arms, recess, mouth, and guide elements of the clamp 10.1 shown in Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings. Further, the metal plate has been shaped to form a generally planar back 30, extending between the arms 14, on a side of the clamp 10.2, remote from the mouth 18.

Referring to Figure 7 of the drawings, a clamp 10.3, in accordance with a third embodiment of the invention, includes the same features as the clamps 10.2, shown in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings, except that the arms 14 of the clamp 10.3 define a part square recess 16, in which an elongate element in the form of a square tube 28 is receivable. The clamp 10.3

further includes a screw-threaded element 26 which extends through an aperture defined in the back 30 of the clamp. A screw-threaded element 26 can be attached to the clamps 10.2, in similar fashion.

5 Referring to Figure 8 of the drawings, a clamp 10.4, in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the invention, includes the same features as the clamps 10.2 shown in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings, but further includes a radial recess 30 extending from the recess 16. The recess 30 can be used to hold a flexible element, such as an electrical conductor, in  
10 position, when a cylindrical elongate element is received in the recess 16 of the clamp 10.4.

Referring to Figure 9 of the drawings, a clamp 10.5, in accordance with a fifth embodiment of the invention, includes a container 32  
15 defining a recess on its side, in which an article can be supported. The container 32 shown, is configured to receive a videocassette, but can be configured to receive any article, which is to be supported.

Referring to Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings, the releasable  
20 attachment of a clamp 10 to an elongate element in the form of a cylindrical pole 34, is shown. The clamp 10 is positioned with the mouth 18 directed to the pole 34, with the axis of the pole and the recess 16, substantially parallel. The clamp 10 is moved towards the pole 34 so that the guide surfaces 24 abut the circumference of the pole, and are forced outward, against the resilience of the

arms 14. The pole 34 slides into the recess 16, and the arm 14 close around the pole in a clipping fashion.

Referring to Figures 1 to 11 of the drawings, the resilience of the arms 14 can be varied by varying the dimensions of the arm, or the material from which the arms are manufactured. Similarly, varying the width of the mouth 18 can vary the resilience with which the clamp 10 is attached in clipping fashion, to the elongate element.

The appearance of the clamps 10 can be changed by epoxy coating, powder coating, chrome plating, spray-painting, or other suitable appearance enhancing technique.

Referring to Figures 12 to 22 of the drawings, a system in accordance with the invention is generally indicated by reference numeral 40.

Referring to Figure 12 of the drawings, a system 40.1 in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention, includes a support structure in the form of a pole 34 held upright by a pedestal 42, and to which a clamp 10 (not shown) is attached. A picture 44 is attached to the clamp 10 by way of a support formation in the form of a clip 46, to be displayed.

Referring to Figure 13 of the drawings, a system 40.2 in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention, includes a pole 34

extending between a floor 46 and a ceiling 48. A number of pictures 44 are supported in the same way as the picture 44 shown in Figure 12 of the drawings.

5 Referring to Figure 14 of the drawings, a system 40.3 in accordance with a third embodiment of the invention includes three poles 34, each extending between a floor 46 and a ceiling 48, and to which a number of clamps 10 (not shown) are attached. Pictures 44 are attached to each clamp 10 by way of a support formation in the form of a magnet 50, attachable to a  
10 magnetic backing of the picture 44.

Referring to Figure 15 of the drawings, a system 40.4 in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the invention, includes a pole 34 held in an upright position by a pedestal 42. A picture 44 is attached to the pole 34,  
15 and is lit by a light 52 attached to a top of the pole 34. Two articles are attached to the pole 34 below the picture 44.

Referring to Figure 16 of the drawings, a system 40.5 in accordance with a fifth embodiment of the invention includes a pole 34 and  
20 pedestal 42, similar to the system 40.4 shown in Figure 15 of the drawings, but which includes two lights 52, both extending from a top of the pole 34. Five articles are attached to the pole 34 by way of clamps 10, below the lights 52.

Referring to Figure 17 of the drawings, a system 40.6 in accordance with a sixth embodiment of the invention includes a pole 34 extending between a floor 46 and a ceiling 48. Three lights 52 are each attached to the pole 34 by way of a clamp 10, and three support formations in the form of platform 51 are each attached to the pole 34 by way of a clamp 10, for supporting articles on the platform.

Referring to Figure 18 of the drawings, a system 40.7 in accordance with a seventh embodiment of the invention, includes a pole 34, held upright by a pedestal 42 and three containers in the form of brochure holders 54 attached to the pole 34 by way of clamps 10.

Referring to Figure 19 of the drawings, a system 40.8 in accordance with an eighth embodiment of the invention, includes a pedestal 42 housing a battery (not shown), six brochure holders 54 attached to the pole 34 by way of clamps 10, and two lights 52 attached to the top of the pole. The lights 52 are powered from the battery held in the pedestal 42.

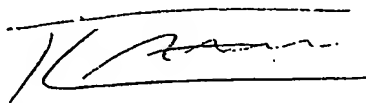
Referring to Figure 20 of the drawings, a system 40.9 in accordance with a ninth embodiment of the invention, includes a pedestal 42 and an upright pole 34. A number of branch poles 56 are each attached to the pole 34 by way of clamps 10, and a number of wine bottles 58 are each held in a wine bottle holder 60, attached to a branch pole 56 or the pole 34, by way of a clamp 10.

Referring to Figure 21 of the drawings, a system 40.10 in accordance with a tenth embodiment of the invention, includes a number of clamps 10 attached to a support structure in the form of a support loop 62. An article in the form of a garment 60 is attached to the clamps 10 by way of a support formation including a peg 65 attached to the garment, and an elastic tensile member 66 attached to the clamp.

Referring to Figure 22 of the drawings, a system 40.11 in accordance with an eleventh embodiment of the invention, includes an upright pole 34, and a door 68, attached to the pole by way of two clamps 10. The door 68 being arcuately displaceable about the axis of the pole 34 as a result of relative frictional displacement between the clamps 10 and a circumference of the pole.

The invention illustrated holds the advantages of allowing a variety of support systems to be assembled for supporting and/or displaying articles, and allows the support systems to be altered, disassembled, and/or re-assembled, to suit changing requirements.

DATED THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2002



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APPLICANT'S PATENT ATTORNEYS

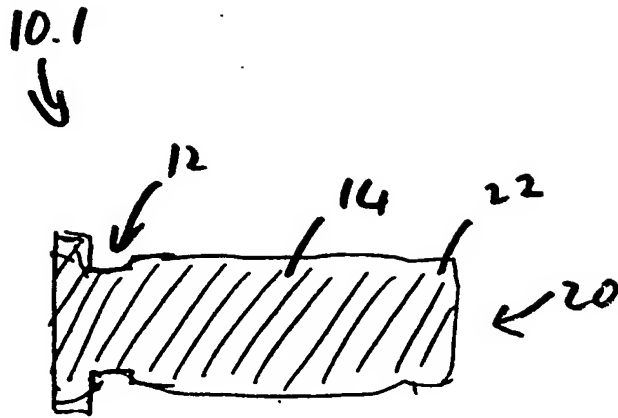


Fig 1

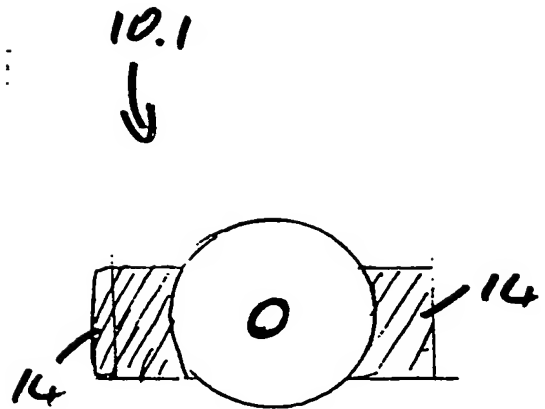


Fig 2

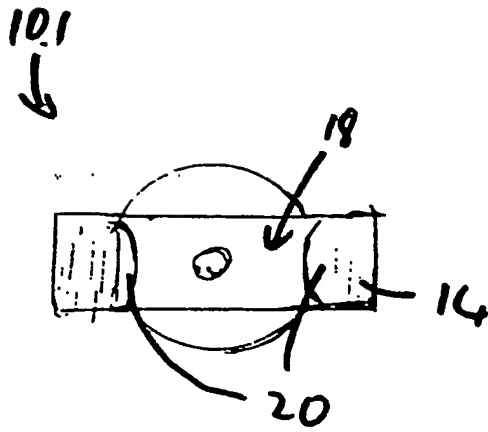


Fig 3

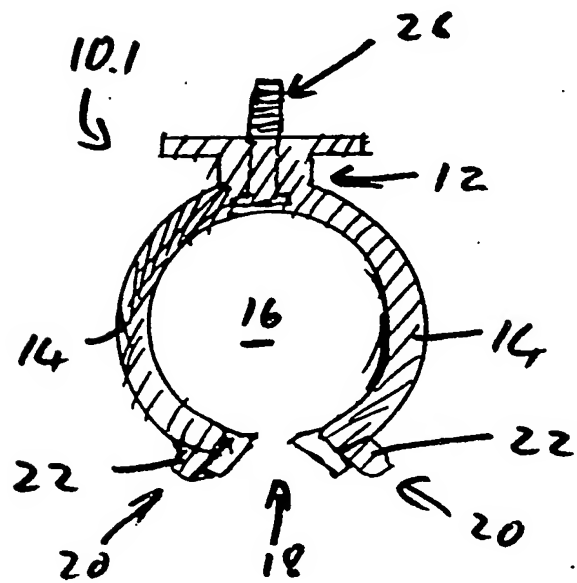
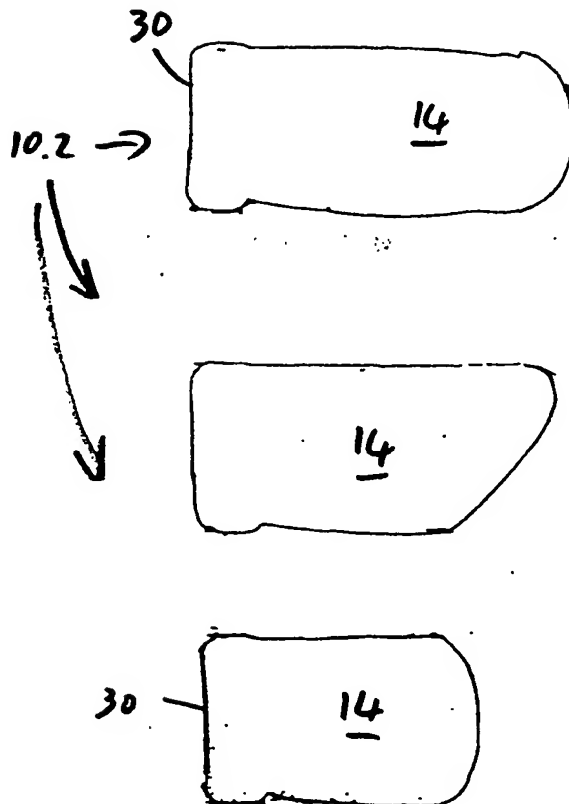
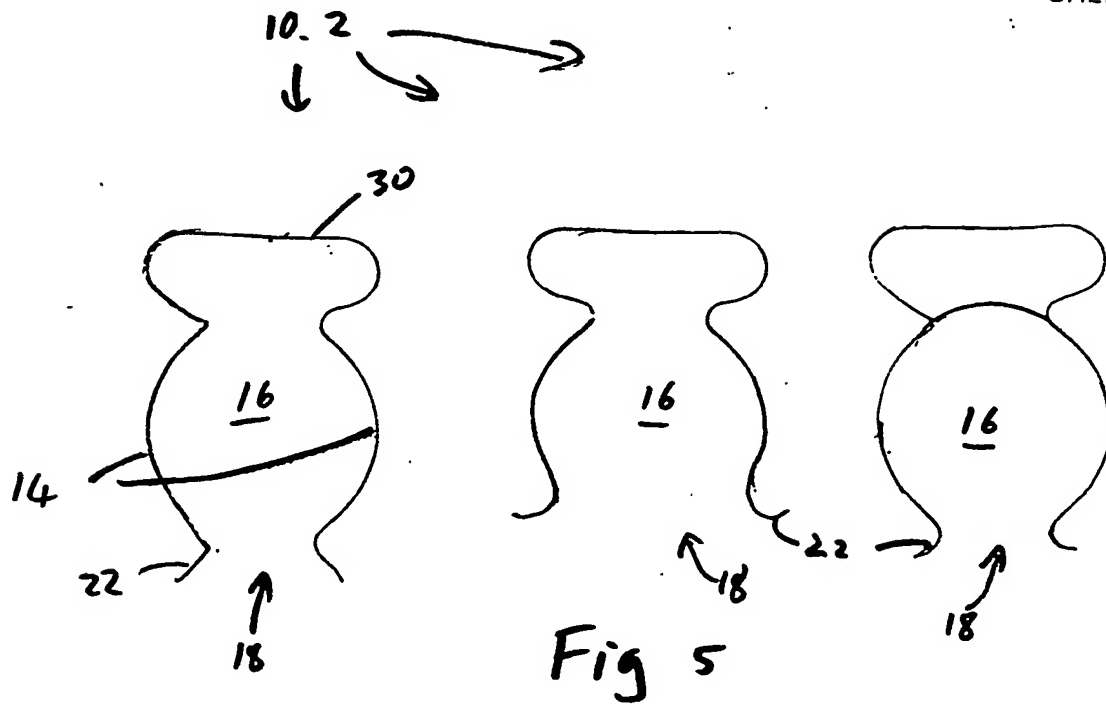
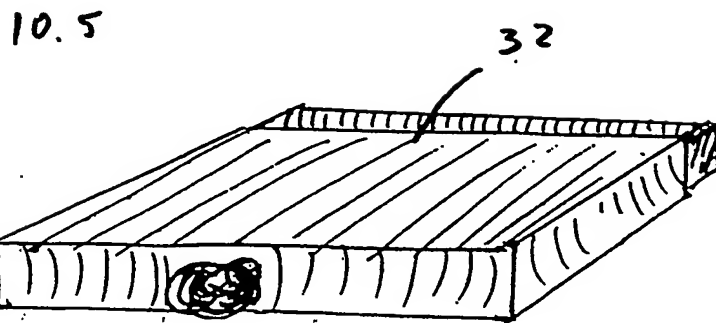
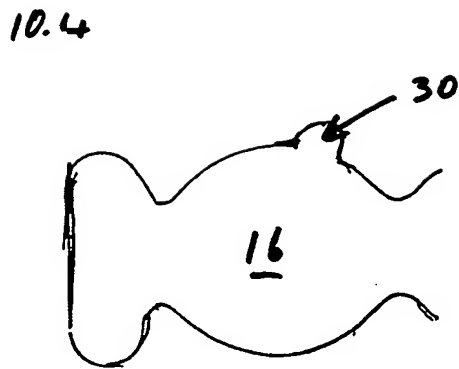
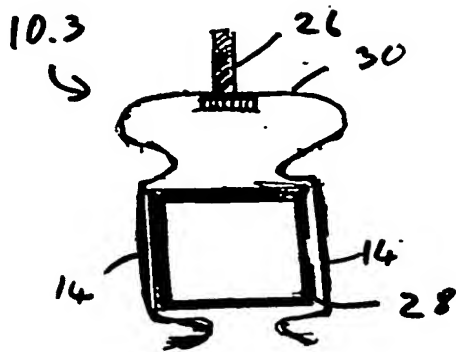


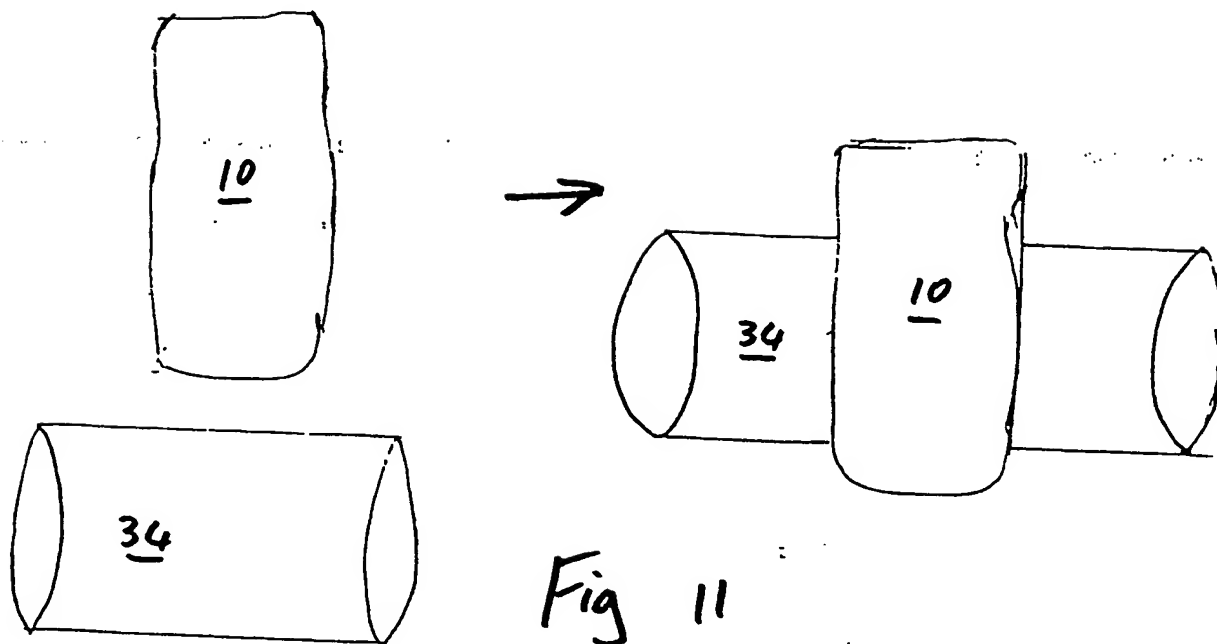
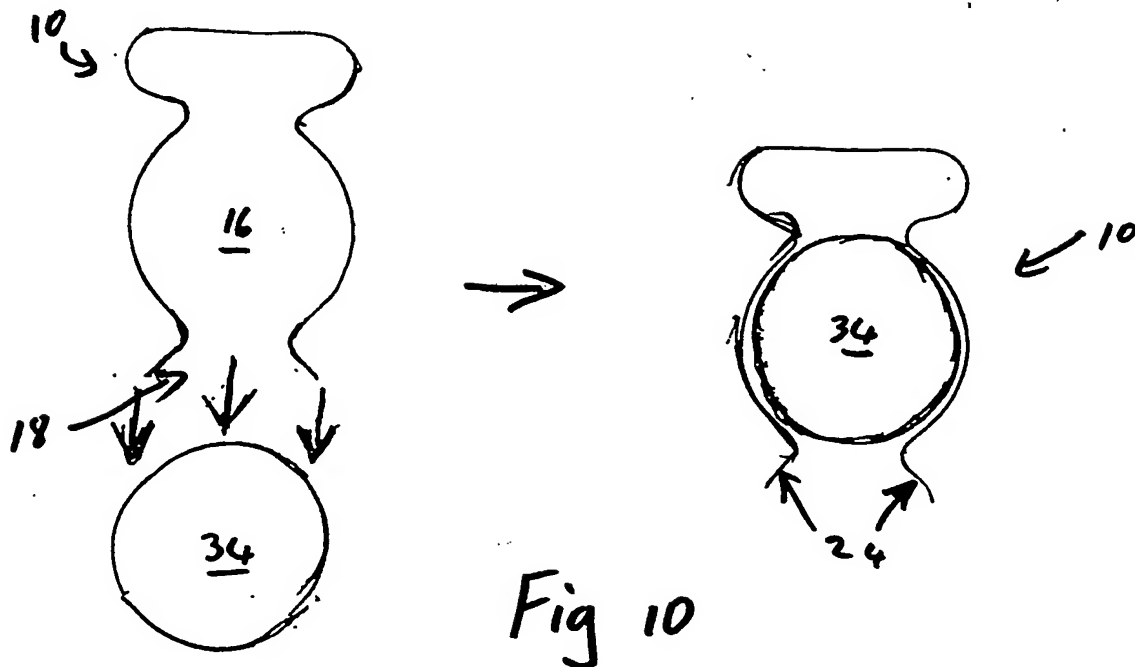
Fig 4



*Tipan*







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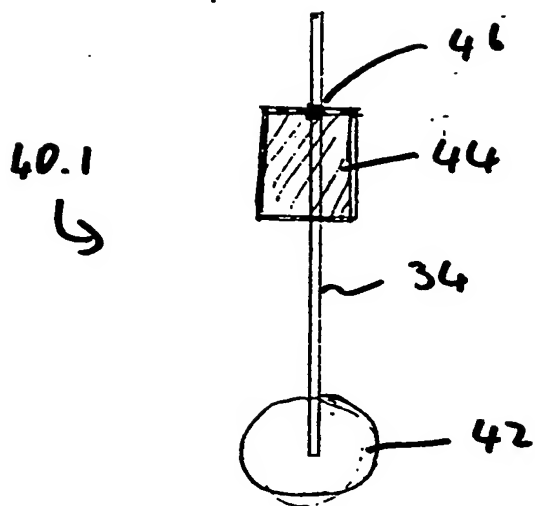


Fig 12

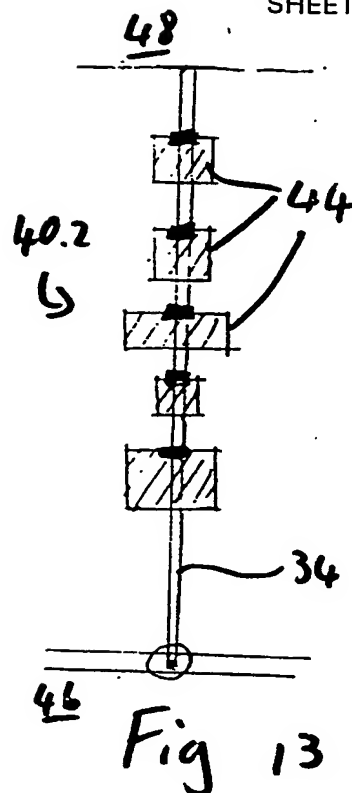


Fig 13

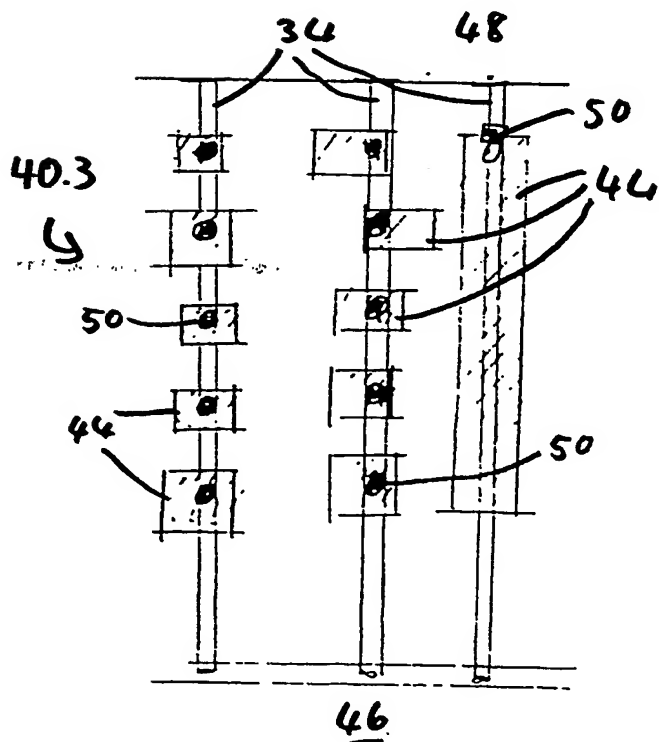


Fig 14

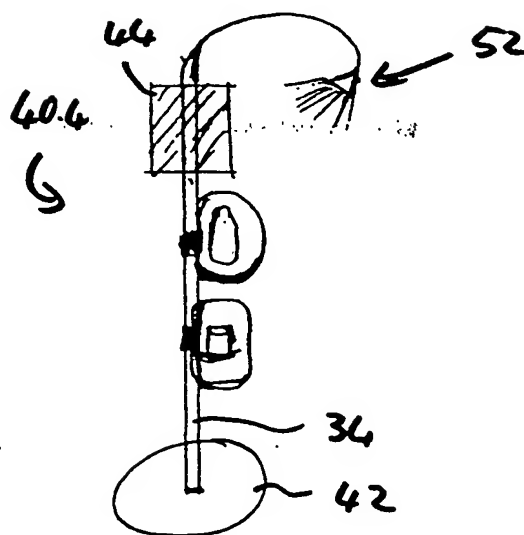
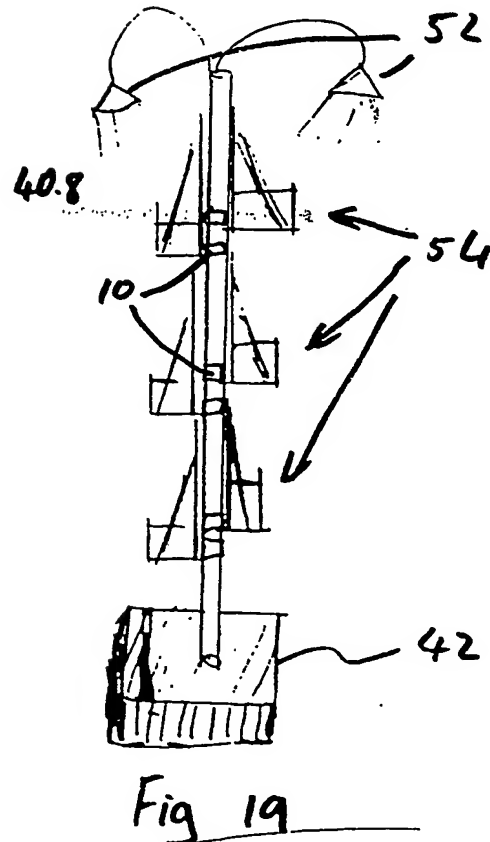
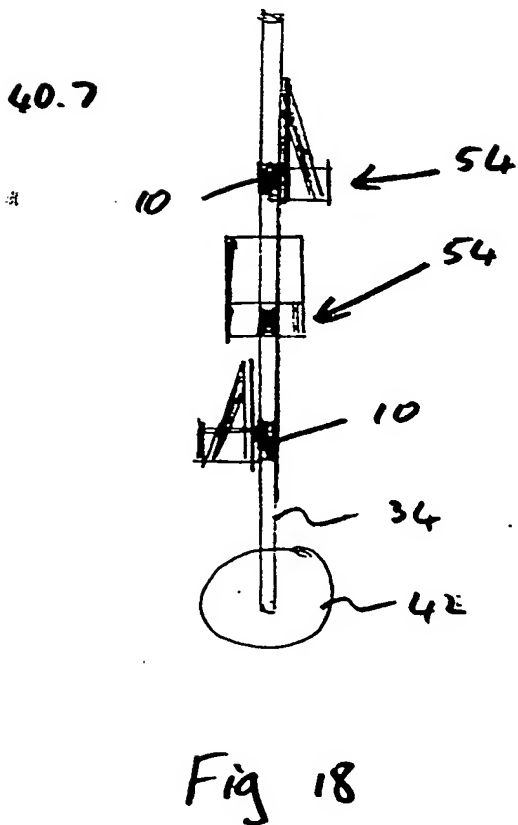
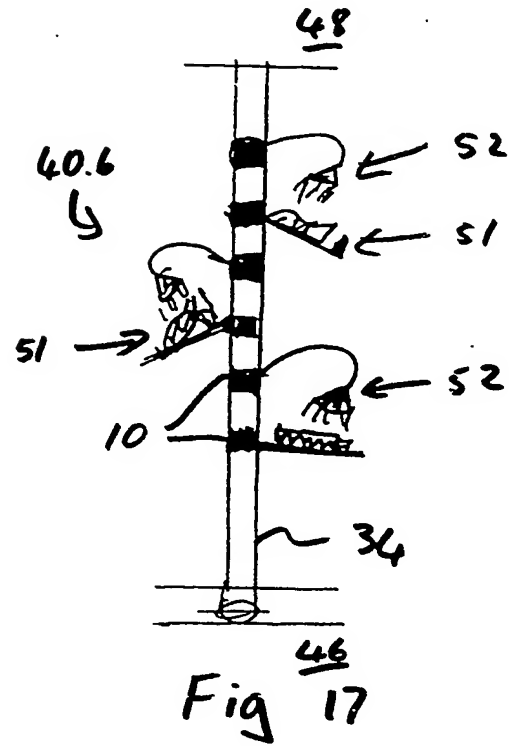
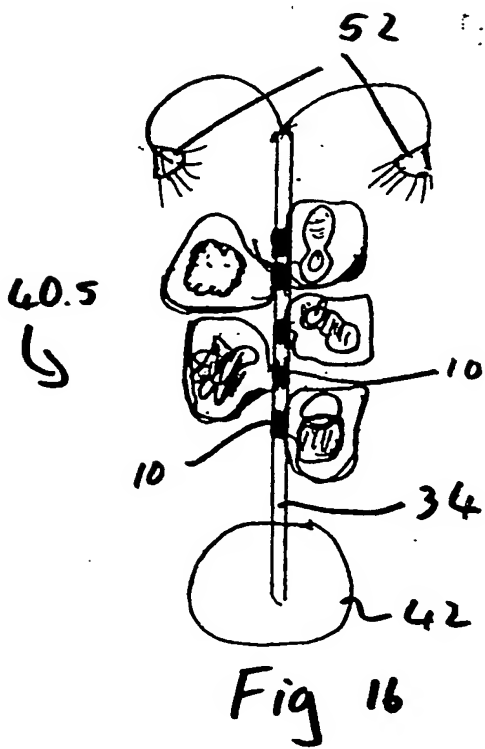


Fig 15



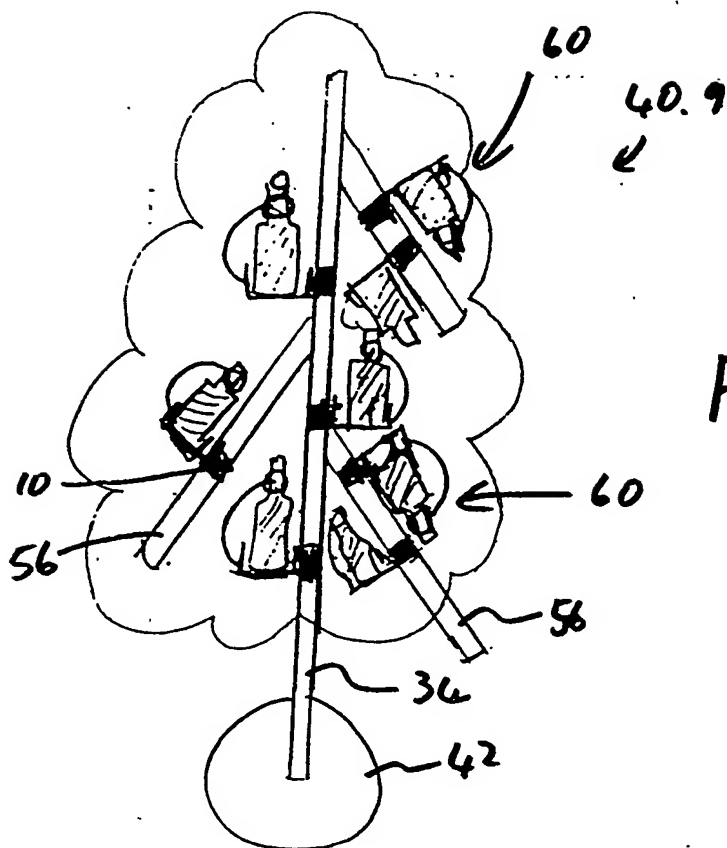


Fig 20

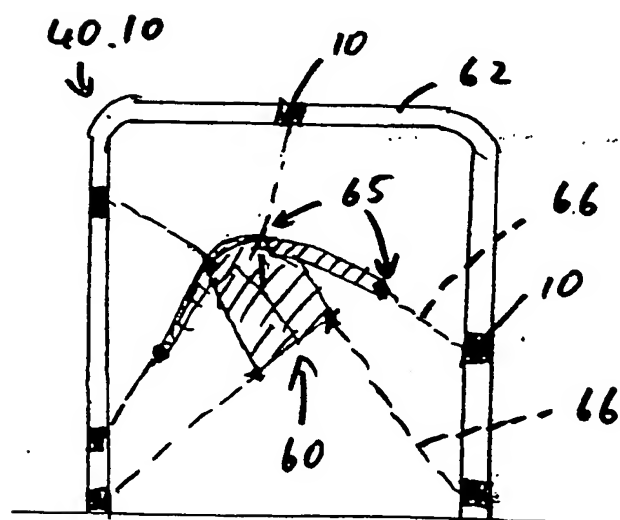


Fig 21

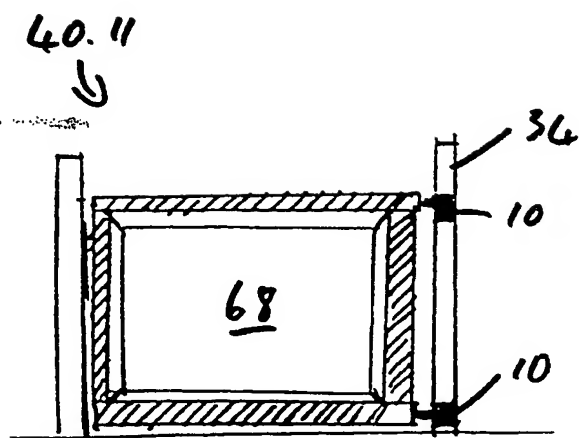


Fig 22